PAUL KRUGER.

Sketch of the President of the Boers, Whom England Can't Manage.

Fearless and Firm, He Insists on Boer Independence and Emulates America.

His Chief Advisers in Civil and Military Matters an Irishman and an American.

ENGLAND'S SCHEME TO GET CONTROL

Once again President Kruger has become the man of the hour, and a few interesting reminiscences of his career by a man who knew him intimately will prove timely. This remarkable man, writes a correspondent, was born October 10, 1825. His parents were Boer farmers, residing in Cape Colony, too poor to supply Paul with shoes. The future ruler of the South African republic had to trudge over the African veldt in his bare feet. He was christened S. J. Paul Kruger, but the two initials were soon disused, though President Kruger uses them in signing State papers. Fear was unknown to Kruger from boyhood. When he was in his seventeenth year his father asked him to take home his span of oxen and an empty wagon. He was accompanied by his little sister.

"Paul," said his father, "take care of your sister."

"I will," he said simply.

In those days traveling in Cape Colony was anything but a picnic. Wild animals were plentiful and many a traveler became a prey to these beasts.

Everything went well until Paul was within about five miles from home. Here a large panther made his appearance. The oxen took fright and bolted. The jostling of the wagon threw the little girl to the ground, where she was at the mercy of the ferocious animal.

Without a moment's hesitation young Kruger jumped from the wagon and ran to his sister's assistance.

The panther stood with gleaming eyes over the prostrate child.

Kruger was unarmed, but without a moment's hesitation he engaged the panther in a hand-to-hand battle. It was a fierce battle. Time and again the angry beast clawed Kruger cruelly, but his courage and strength never failed him. Like a bulldog he held his grip upon the panther's throat until he strangled the beast to death. Kruger was badly lacerated. Blood flowed from many wounds, but notwithstanding his injuries he carried his fainting sister home.

This exploit made him the hero of the sturdy Boers in that section. It was the first indication of the latent powers that dwelt in the coming ruler of the Transvaal.

From boyhood Kruger hated the English with a hatred which has only increased with years. His boast was that some day he would raise an army to fight the English. When Kruger was young his people moved to the Orange Free State, and later to the Transvaal.

The first time I met Paul Kruger was at Pretoria in 1879. Though past fifty years of age, he was a Hercules in physique, standing over six feet in his stockings and strongly built, without an ounce of superfluous flesh on his body. He and Joubert were then arraying the Boers for the great struggle with England, which came in 1881, securing for the Boers the right of self-government.

In those days Kruger was poor compared with his wealth of today. He had a large family, to which he was devotedly attached.

When I met him over fifteen years later, although the President of the republic, he was as unassuming as in earlier days. He asked me to be his guest, and in his parlor in Pretoria we talked of old days.

Kruger has aged considerably in the fifteen years. He stooped somewhat, but the fire of youth gleamed in his eyes and age seemed unable to dim his ardor.

My conversation with him was carried on through his Secretary. "Oom" Paul can speak English fluently, but under no circumstances will he carry on a conversation in that language. This procedure when in conference with British officials gives him an opportunity to collect his thoughts before replying.

He is an inveterate smoker and coffee drinker, and is hardly ever seen at home without a long pipe in his mouth. At his side is a large cuspidor, which he uses freely.

The motto of President Kruger for years has been Patrick Henry's memorable utterance, "Give me liberty or give me death." This sentence translated into the Boer language hangs handsomely framed in his parlor.

This heroic Boer ruler is almost devoid of learning. What education he has was hard to secure. Yet he has baffled men of learning by his sagacity. His knowledge of human nature is wonderful.

Once in Johannesburg there was an elected Board of Health, which was becoming daily more powerful. The members were mostly English, among them being a Mr. Holt, who was ultra-English in his views. This board was the only hope of the British element for securing control of Johannesburg.

In November, 1894, President Kruger issued an edict that only the Boer language could be used at the meetings of the Board of Health, and only those who could speak the language were qualified to be its members.

The English fumed, but there was nothing to do but resign. The Boer language is as hard to learn as the Chinese.

In November, 1894, I was President Kruger's guest, when he drove home the last spike in the Delagoa Bay railway, which connects Pretoria with Delagoa bay.

It was an inspiring scene when the Presidential train arrived at Bronkhorst Spruit. As the old President stepped from his special car he was greeted by hundreds of Boer farmers. In the distance could be seen the three grouped graves of the rear guard of the British Ninety-second Regiment.

In a few words Kruger exhorted the Boers to stand by their country; never to give it up to a foreign foe. As he made this appeal he turned his eyes toward the last resting place of the British soldiers.

He is decidedly partial to Americans, and has not forgotten the time when a handful of Americans saved him from a British mob. This took place in 1893, when Sir Henry Loch, the Governor of Cape Colony and High Commissioner of Africa, went to Pretoria to confer with Kruger concerning the command to British subjects to carry arms in the Boer army.

The Englishmen in Johannesburg, excited over Loch's visit, went to Pretoria in special trains. When Loch arrived they took the horses out of his carriage and drew him in triumph to the Capitol. Some over-excited ones took the horses out of President Kruger s carriage and started to mob him.

In an instant the old President was surrounded by twenty Americans with drawn revolvers. They threatened to shoot the first man that attempted to lay hands on Kruger. He has never forgotten that kindness.

Before I left Pretoria President Kruger said to me through his Secretary:

"When you go home to the United States tell the people there for me that there is a small nation here, loving their country and their liberty, that idolizes the American flag and the free institutions of the country. May the United States ever prosper and remain true to the principles of her forefathers is my earnest wish. It would please me very much if a treaty could be made between the United States and the Transvaal. Could I favor American commerce I would do so, and I shall try all in my power to grant some concessions."

The voice of the aged President quivered as he spoke and his eyes were moist. He was certainly deeply moved.

It is no wonder that the old Boers love their President. His character is pure; he is gentle as a babe, but firm as a rock, and a very lion when his country is in danger.

The fact that Oom Paul's chief adviser in his controversies with Milner and Chamberlain in the Transvaal is an Irishman named Farrelly, and a graduate of famous Trinity College, appears to have aroused the Castle detectives in Dublin and those of Scotland Yard in London. They suspect that Farrelly is a member of the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood, and that he was sent to the Transvaal to organize the Irish there and give what aid he could to the Boers whether in a diplomatic way or in the field in case of war.

The authorities, however, are watchful and more than suspicious that an effort for some time has been on foot not only to organize the Irish in the Transvaal, who are by no means a small force, but to send to them every aid possible and skilled military men from America.

Gen. Joubert, who is seldom heard of in the cablegrams, is the man who manages the fighting of the Boers in cases of emergency. He is an American, born in Uniontown, Penn., in 1841. He served in our navy under Admiral Dupont during the civil war and afterward in the army. He is a natural and beautiful fighter, and gave the English their rations of war at Majuba Hill. He believes that with an army of Boers and their Dutch friends in the Orange Free State and Cape Colony the whole of South Africa can be retrieved from the British.

What the British claim is that the Transvaal Republic has not the right to restrict the franchise in this conservative fashion. It would be to the British interests, says the Boston Advertiser, if the ordinary British resident in the Transvaal should acquire full franchise privileges within a year or two after his arrival within the State. It is conceded that if the change were made (as the British residents so far outnumber those of any other nationality) it would not be long before the Dutch republic would be turned over to the British Government as a new colony by the vote of its naturalized citizens.

The Boers appreciate this fact as well as the British, and it is precisely on that account that they have restricted the franchise in such fashion. The question hinges really upon the right of the citizens of any republic to make their own franchise laws. Apparently the British object even to the provision which bars any foreign-born citizen from the highest official office in the republic. It is at least worth notice that the American Constitution contains a similar provision, excluding an alien-born citizen from becoming President of the United States; but it is not hard to imagine what would come to pass if the British Government should issue to the American President an ultimatum that either this provision must be changed so as to allow an Englishman to become President or the American republic would be wiped off the map.

INDORSED BY THE CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

That the Kentucky Irish American is steadily growing in favor with its readers and usefulness to the public is evidenced by the action of the Central Labor Union at a recent meeting in giving this paper its indorsement, which is the more welcome and appreciated because unsolicited and unexpected. The publisher is grateful, and will endeavor to merit this additional recognition. Our friends will be pleased to learn that the proposition favoring the indorsement was unanimously adopted by the delegates of both bodies. The preamble and resolutions adopted by the Central Labor Union are as follows:

Whereas, Many misstatements have recently appeared in the press of this city relative to the Central Labor Union and organizations represented therein; and

Whereas, The Kentucky Irish American has always been a consistent and unbiased champion of the trades union movement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Central Labor Union indorse said Kentucky Irish American as the official newspaper of this body.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this organization and all affiliated unions be communicated to the public through the columns of the aforesaid paper.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION

OFFICERS.

President—James McGill.
Vice President—J. W. Stevens.
Corresponding Secretary—Zeno M. Young, 549 Second street.
Recording Secretary—T. J. Hennessy.
Financial Secretary—Charles Peetz.
Treasurer—William A. Pool.
Sergeant at Arms—Nelson Green.
Chairman Board of Directors—Walter M. Young.

LABOR WORLD.

Notes and Gossip of the Week From All Parts of the Country.

Pekin, Ill., has a newly organized iron molders' union.

The painters and brickmakers have formed unions in Peoria, Ill.

The tinners, whose union was knocked by the hard times several years ago, are reorganizing over the country.

Notice reducing wages in the structural department of the Cambria Steel Company, Johnstown, Pa., 70 to 80 per cent. is likely to cause a strike. The men earn what seem excessive wages, but the work is so heavy and exhaustive that they can not work steadily—only about one-third time.

The Toronto Typographical Union has been conceded an advance in wages averaging 10 per cent. Increases apply on all kinds of work, piece and time, day and night. Negotiation has been carried on for some time past between the Employing Printers' Association and the Typographical Union, and the printers are to be congratulated on the satisfactory and peaceful outcome. It is estimated that the increase will mean $30,000 a year in wages to the Toronto printers.

New York Typographical Union No. 6 at its last meeting finally decided to undertake the Printing Exposition in October, 1900. Madison Square Garden has been secured, and provision made for an outlay of $55,000. The exposition will be thoroughly up-to-date in every way. It is expected that all type-setting machines on the market will be on exhibition, as well as all branches of the printing arts and industries. This event is to mark "Big Six's" fiftieth anniversary.

Colorado's Supreme Court decided that the eight-hour day law passed at the last session of the State Legislature applying to the men working in the great ore smelters was unconstitutional. The decision simply declares the law unconstitutional without assigning any reason, and seems a burlesque in view of the fact that Colorado's law was framed after the Utah law on the same lines, and which was declared coostitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States in February, 1898.

The Lincoln (Neb.) State Journal Company, represented by Manager C. D. Tap-hagen, and the International Typographical Union, represented by W. C. Boyer, of Omaha, signed an agreement that makes the Evening News, the Morning Journal and the big job room of the company unionized throughout. The settlement provides that the Journal Company will hereafter run a union office, and the same shall be regulated by the laws of the International Typographical Union and the Lincoln union; that the nine-hour law will go into effect November 21; that the present scale of No. 209 shall prevail; that chapels shall be organized in the job and news rooms, and that the union shall admit the non-union men now employed by the company. The agreement permits Beacham (non-union) to remain foreman of the Journal. The Evening News has a full union force. Fifteen non-union men were taken in. Two men (Jett and Bartley) refused cards. The office will support an average of sixty men the year round.

BRITISH LABOR NOTES.

There are deep-seated disturbances in the Lancashire cotton district. The weavers have got their advance of about 2½ per cent, and now the spinners are after a 10 per cent. increase, which would bring up their wages to the old level, where they stood before the rates were cut down.

Then, again, the new agitation among the farm hands—of all people in the world hardest to move—goes on rapidly. The depopulation of the rural districts has at last reached a point where the supply of labor for farm and general agricultural work is greatly below the demand. There is even trouble to get milkers for the cows. Consequently the country laborer has gained a new belief in his own value, and he is demanding a higher price. Wherever farmers foregather there you will hear lamentations about the price of labor. One of the more recent instances of the agitation comes from Yorkshire, where agricultural laborers have successfully demanded an increase in wages of 10 per cent., together with a reduction in hours of work.

There was a time when the farm hands in England were welded into half a score of powerful unions. In those days Joseph Arch was touring the country and rousing enthusiasm to fever pitch. Now Arch is an old man, weak and ill, and all the organizations have petered out, aided in that by years of agricultural depression. Remnants exist here and there, but too insignificant for description. The Workers' Union is making an attempt to organize this section of labor in some parts of the country and with fair success, four branches of the union having been opened recently in purely agricultural districtts.

Talking of the Workers' Union reminds me that its founder, Tom Mann, has retired from active work in the labor movement. He is the son of mining parents and was born in Warwickshire in 1856. He worked on a farm for a couple of years after he was nine years old, and then went down a mine, working there and on the pit bank till he was fourteen. After this he was apprenticed to the engineering trade, and upon the expiration of his time came to London. He worked here at his trade with firms like Thornycroft's and others and joined his trade society. In 1885 he became a member of the Social Democratic Federation, the English annex of the international Socialistic movement. He has stood for Parliament three times and piled up huge totals of votes, but never quite enough. He practically built up the independent labor party and was instrumental in founding the International Federation of Ship, Dock and Riverside Workers, now known as the International Federation of Transport Workers. He founded the Workers' Union in May, 1898. Nearly every advance and reform movement of the last twenty years has had his support and cordial sympathy. As an orator he has few equals, his words burning into the hearts of his audience as only sincerity and truth can. Dark and strong of feature and figure, he is one of the most forceful personalities in the labor movement of today. Notwithstanding his retirement from active work, the unions with which he is connected will still have him as honorary adviser.

Since the return of Ben Tillett to England the union of which he is General Secretary, the dockers, has taken in 2,000 new members. Tillett is an exciting, an enthusiastic organizer, despite his ill-health.

The agitation among the railway servants has grown great since Secretary Richard Bell's return from America. The unionist railroad workers of Liverpool have brought out a most definite minimum programme, which demands twelve cents an hour, eight hours a day and six days a week. They also urge upon the legislature the necessity of proceeding at once with the railway regulation bill, and more especially the special feature of it which has reference to the compulsory introduction of automatic couplings.

Considerable trouble is brewing among that section of mine workers known as engine winders. They want an eight-hour day, and threaten to strike if it is not granted. A strike of these men would paralyze mining operations.

HOME RULE WILL COME.

Some minds appear to be haunted by a dread that every boon wrung from England will damp the Irishman's aspirations for home rule. There must be no such fear. With greater comfort and prosperity the just demands of Ireland will be more strongly pressed. For one thing, that terrible drain of the country's best blood will be checked. As it stands, Ireland is losing 35,000 of her most capable and energetic sons and daughters on an agerage every year. With proper cultivation and direction there is not the smallest doubt she could keep nearly all of them at home for many years to come. It is true she is necessarily an agricultural country. The linen, shipbuilding and brewing are limited to a few centers. The capitalized value of the crops and stocks throughout the country is estimated £112,000,000. But there is not a doubt that this value could be at least doubled. The present methods of cultivation are notoriously the most barbarous in Europe outside of Russia—if we may still include it in Europe. Given an Irish Parliament, Ireland would soon change all that.

IRISH SOCIETY DIRECTORY

A. O. H.

DIVISION 1
Meets on the Second and Fourth Tuesday Evenings of Each Month.
President—Thomas Keenan.
Vice President—Tim J. Sullivan.
Recording Secretary—Thomas J. Dolan
Financial Secretary—Peter Cusick, 132 Twentieth street.
Treasurer—John Mulloy.

DIVISION 2
Meets on the Second and Fourth Thursday Evenings of Each Month.
President—William T. Meehan.
Vice President—Thomas Camfield.
Recording Secretary—J. Charles Obst.
Financial Secretary—John T. Keaney, 1335 Rogers street.
Treasurer—Owen Keiren.

DIVISION 3
Meets on the First and Third Wednesday Evenings af Each Month.
President—Patrick T. Sullivan.
Vice President—Phil Cavanaugh.
Recording Secretary—JohnCavanaugh.
Financial Secretary—N. J. Sheridan, 2018 Lytle street.
Treasurer—George J. Butler.

DIVISION 4
Meets on the Second and Fouth Wednesday Evenings of Each Month.
President—John H. Hennessy.
Vice President—Thomas Lynch.
Recording Secretary—Thomas J. Kelly.
Financial Secretary—George Flahiff, 420 East Gray street.
Treasurer—Harry Brady.

DIVISION 6
Meets on the First and Third Tuesday Evenings of Each Month
President—Frank G. Cunningham.
Vice President—D. J. Tierney.
Recording Secretary—L. J. Mackey.
Financial Secretary—J. J. Curran, 616 Thirteenth street.
Treasurer—M. J. McCarthy.

One never realizes the aimless life of a policeman until he attempts to shoot a dog.

If a word to the wise is sufficent, lawyers must consider jurors blooming idiots.